

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR:GSVEST:ML
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NSC - MR. HUNTER (SUBSTANCE)
-----064403 090637Z /16
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

1. AMBASSADOR PANSA PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO THE PRESIDENT ON APRIL 7. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI AGAIN AT THE NATO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING AND THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT THIS SUMMER. HE EXPRESSED GREAT CONCERN FOR MORO AND SYMPATHY FOR THE STRAIN THE KIDNAPPING HAS PLACED ON ANDREOTTI.

2. PANSA SAID THE PRIME MINISTER WAS DOING WELL IN THE FACE OF A SHOCKING SITUATION. HE SAID ANDREOTTI AND THE PRESIDENT OF ITALY HAD BOTH ASKED HIM TO CONVEY THEIR WARMEST GREETINGS TO PRESIDENT CARTER. HE CONTINUED THAT IT WAS OF SUPREME IMPORTANCE NOW THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT FEEL THE SOLID SUPPORT OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. THIS WAS TRUE THESE DAYS NOT ONLY OF THE
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GOVERNMENT BUT OF THE ITALIAN PEOPLE.

3. THE PRESIDENT SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO SEND A FURTHER PERSONAL MESSAGE TO THE PRIME MINISTER WHICH COULD THEN BE PUBLISHED.

4. PANSA CONTINUED THAT HIGH LEVEL CONTACTS WERE OF

PRIMARY IMPORTANCE IN CONVEYING THE SENSE OF AMERICAN SUPPORT AND MENTIONED THAT FANFANI WOULD BE COMING SOON TO RECEIVE AN HONORARY DEGREE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA. AS A STAUNCH MEMBER OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND FRIEND OF THE U.S., HE WOULD BE HAPPY AND HONORED IF BY CHANCE THE PRESIDENT COULD FIND TIME TO RECEIVE HIM WHILE HE IS IN THE STATES. (PANSA SAID LATER TO VEST THAT FANFANI COULD COME TO WASHINGTON ANY TIME ON MAY 18, 19, 20, OR 23 AND THAT MRS. FANFANI WAS MOST INTERESTED IN HAVING A CHANCE TO CALL ON MRS. CARTER.) PANSA SAID THAT HE DID NOT WISH AN ANSWER BUT WOULD CONTINUE TO PURSUE THE MATTER THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. THE PRESIDENT WAS NONCOMMITTAL.

5. PANSA THEN SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT TO IMPLEMENT THE UNDERSTANDINGS, ESPECIALLY THE ECONOMIC ONES, WHICH HAD BEEN REACHED WHEN ANDREOTTI WAS HERE LAST SUMMER, COOPERATION IN PRODUCTION, SUBCONTRACTING, AND SO ON--IN OTHER WORDS, WAYS TO HELP THE ITALIANS HELP THEMSELVES.

7. THE PRESIDENT SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO CHECK THE LIST DISCUSSED DURING THE ANDREOTTI VISIT TO EXAMINE THE SUGGESTIONS WHICH HAD BEEN RAISED AND TO SEE WHAT MORE COULD BE DONE.

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8. WHITE HOUSE INFORMS IT WILL BE PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR PRESIDENT TO MEET WITH FANFANI DURING PERIOD MENTIONED PARA 4 BECAUSE OF SCHEDULING DIFFICULTIES. VANCE

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